

TNMCorps News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

THE NATIONAL MAP CORPS

SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome Back!

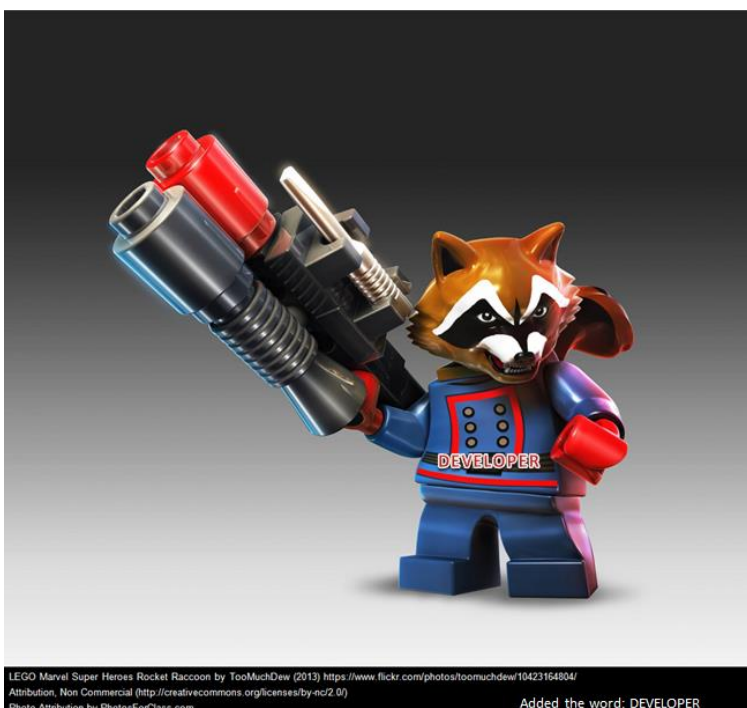
Welcome to all of our new volunteers, and a very special welcome back to all of you who stayed with us over the last few months as we've transitioned to our new map editor. We know it hasn't been easy, and at times frustrating, but we really appreciate you sticking with us!

Thanks to the digital sleuthing skills of our super-hero development team, we are very happy to report that the time users are automatically logged out of an editing session has been expanded from 10-15 minutes of inactivity to at least 1-2 hours. To be on the safe side, it is still a good idea to refresh your page if you have been away from the editor for a while, just to make sure you are still logged in.

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Special Note: This newsletter has been emailed to everyone who has registered with both the new and old projects; however, all following newsletters will only be emailed to current registered users. So if you haven't signed up yet, please do!!



If you're still having issues, or just feel like connecting, shoot us an email at nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov with suggestions, pictures, or tips and tricks.

Stay tuned and keep the feedback coming as we continue to make improvements, including updating user roles and point counts.

Data Super Highway

We are excited to see thousands of updates from volunteers using the new editor, and we want to see your hard work showing up on The National Map sooner rather than later. One huge benefit of the new editor is that we've streamlined the flow of data from YOU to [The National Map](#).

We have a few suggestions to help keep that "Super Highway" flowing.

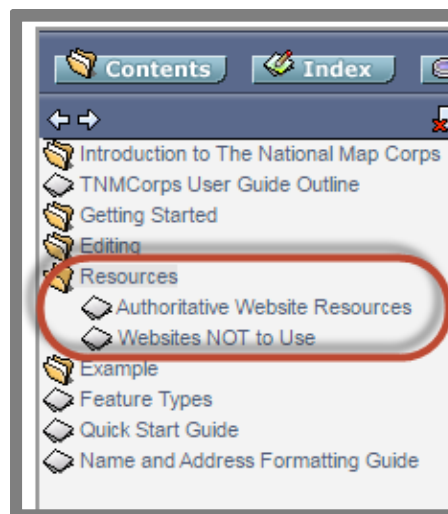


Although Mark Twain said, "Anyone who can only think of one way to spell a word obviously lacks imagination," misspelled words will keep your data sitting in in traffic, waiting for a second look. Slow down and double check the spelling, and spell out abbreviations.

Location, location, location! Other than the name, the location of the point is the most important contribution you can make. Take the time to zoom in close to be sure your point is on the CORRECT building. Use our aerial imagery background layers as the primary source, but you can double check using additional resources such as [Bing](#) or [Google](#) to help figure out the correct location.

If you don't have personal knowledge about a structure, be sure to do your research. Our newly [revamped user guide](#) has a lot of great resources to help you find authoritative websites, such as the [Post Office Locator](#). Be sure to check out the list of websites NOT to use too!

Finally, if you are able to find an authoritative source, please update the address field. It is not a required field for new editors, but it sure helps us out to have the information filled in. At the very least fill in the street name, city, and state.

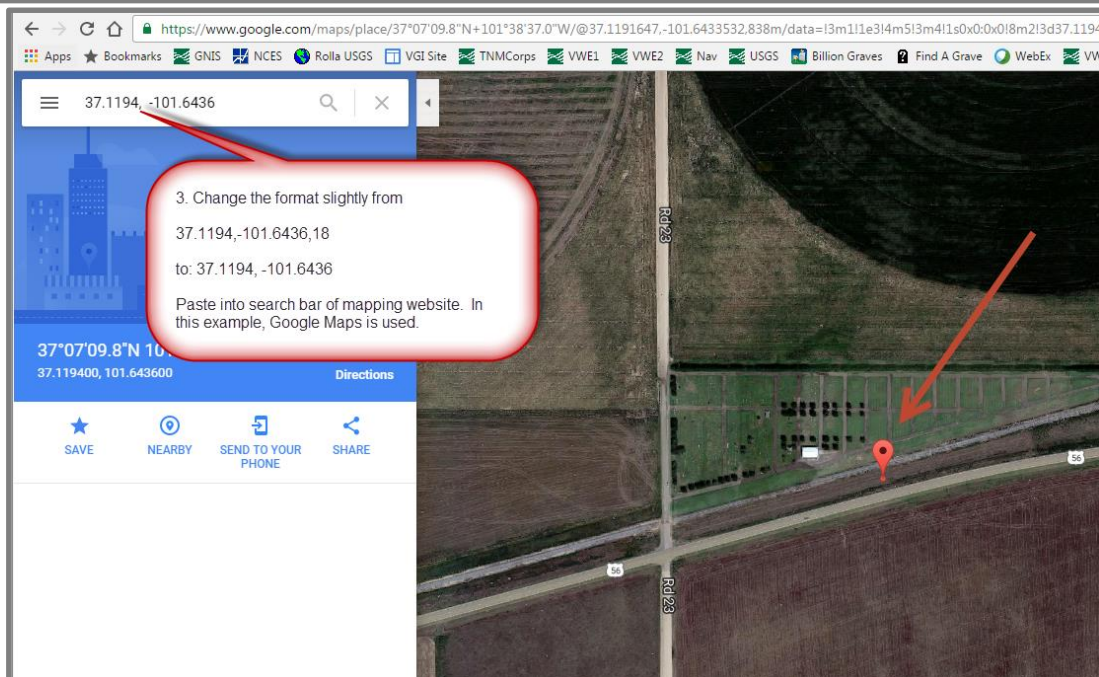
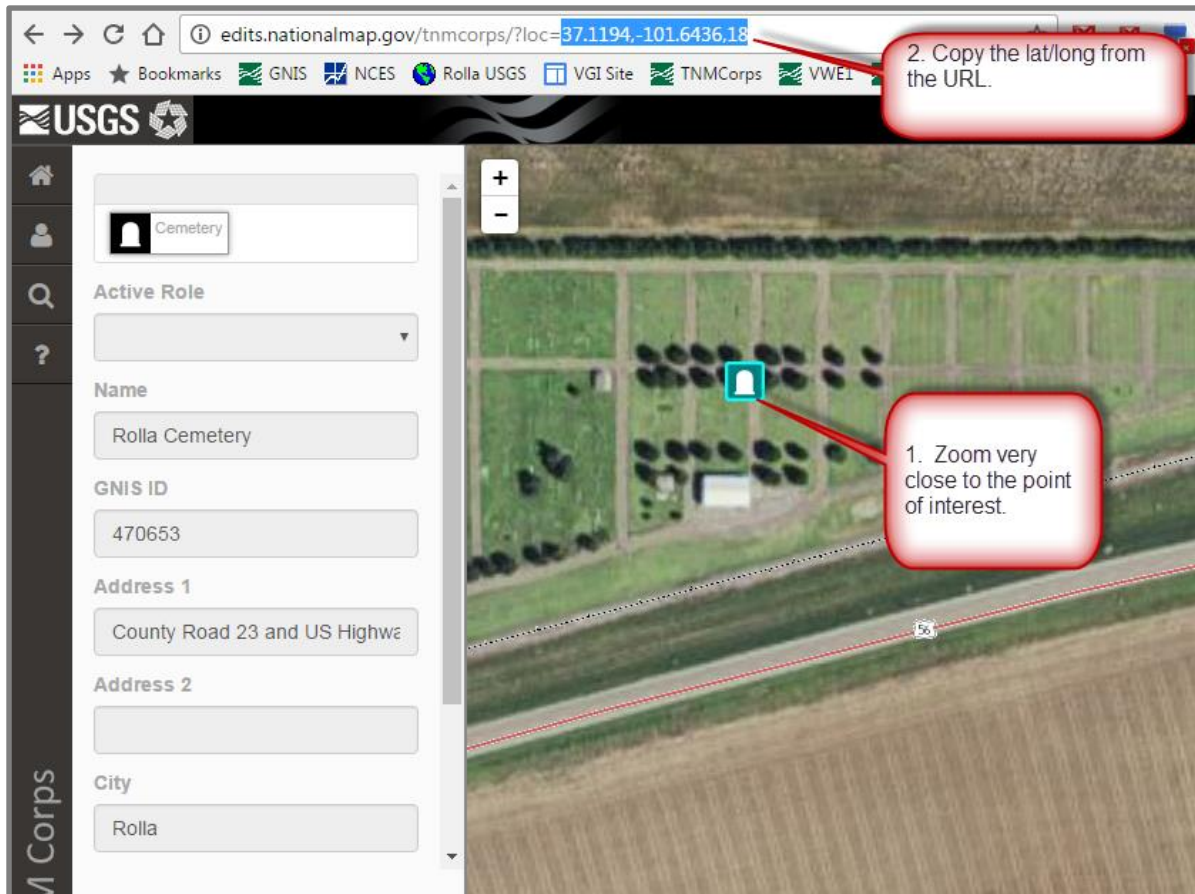


Resource lists in the TNMCorps User Guide

Tips and Tricks

1. How to search by latitude/longitude

Have you ever wanted to use the coordinates in the TNMCorps Editor to search in another online application? Here's an example of one way to search:



2. How to move points long distances

Have you ever needed to move a point (icon) a long distance? KentRobert shares his technique which works for up to about 6 miles:

Click on the icon and hold the left mouse button down with one hand. Then with your other hand, move the wheel on the mouse to increase/decrease (zoom in/out).

With the mouse hand still on holding down the button, move icon as far as you can by moving the mouse. Need to get further? Use your other hand on the arrow keys on your keyboard to move the map, icon still locked in place with the mouse button.



The Deadline for the Patch Challenge has been extended

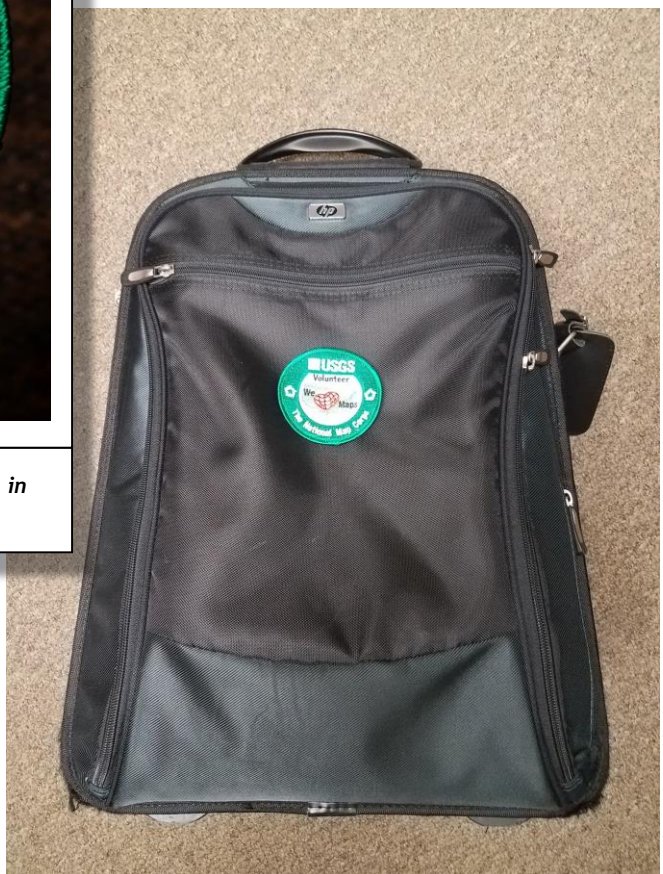
As many of you know, we have been running a challenge to encourage volunteers to contribute 2,016 or more edits in celebration of the [International Map Year](#). Volunteers who meet this challenge will receive a special edition collectable embroidered patch.

If you've just recently joined as a volunteer and saw that the deadline for the challenge was in November, you may have been a little sad that you wouldn't have enough time to get all those edits made. Well, good news! It's time to dry those tears and get dust off that jean jacket, because we're extending the patch challenge to the end of the calendar year. You now have until December 31 to make your 2,016+ edits.

Many of you have accepted [the challenge](#) and a few of you have already REACHED the goal!!



The final patch design for the TNMCorps editing campaign, in honor of GIS Day and International Map Year.



The Q&A Community

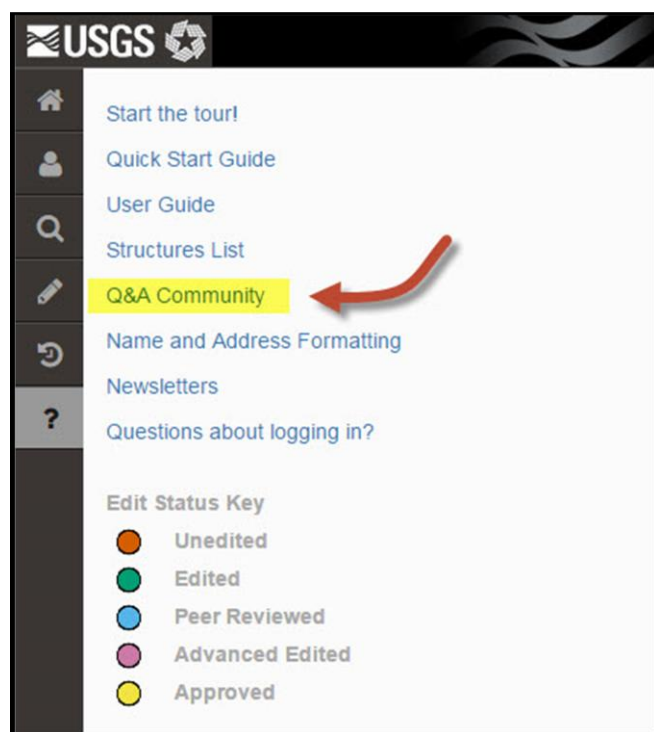
Need help or have advice to share? Join the Q&A Community!

You've probably accessed the [Q&A community](#) at some point in your editing journey. But if you're an editing rookie and you've never visited the Q&A site, or if you're a seasoned veteran and it just slipped your mind, we'd like to remind you that it's a great resource!

On the Q&A Community site you can search for topics you'd like more information about, or ask questions that would benefit the greater editing community. You can also share tips or advice that you've learned through your editing experience by answering the questions of other volunteers. Also, if you've emailed the TNMCorps team with a question and you got a helpful response, we encourage you to add it to Q&A. It's likely there are at least a dozen other volunteers who have been wondering about the same thing!

To Access the Q&A Community:

You can access the Q&A Community site through the [online editor](#). Or, you can access it directly by following this link:
<https://navigator.er.usgs.gov/QandA/questions/>



You don't need to log in or register as a user to read and search for Q&As, but you do need to register and log in to ask or answer questions.

The login button is located in the top right corner of the main OSQA page:



You can then login with one of the following external services the same way you log in to the online editor:



What's in a Name???

As many of you've noticed when registering, the Display Name (username) is not (yet) a required field, so those of you who didn't add a username were given a computer generated mass of letters and numbers. We'd love for you to create your own username. It is especially important if you have volunteered for us prior to August, 2016 to use the same username or let us know if you have changed it. We are working to combine point totals.

You will also need to create your own username if you would like to be recognized for your contributions on public sites. Make sure you've also checked the "consent" box, as seen below:

The screenshot shows the 'Profile Dashboard' form. Annotations include:

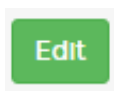
- A green box pointing to the 'Display Name' field (containing 'ekorris_USCS') with the text: 'Update your username here.'
- A green box pointing to the 'Twitter (optional)' field (containing '@') with the text: 'If you have a Twitter account and would like your contributions to be tweeted at you, enter it here.'
- A green box pointing to the 'Consent' checkbox (checked) with the text: 'Click to give us permission to share your username for recognition.'

The form also includes a 'Contact Email' field and 'Update' and 'Cancel' buttons at the bottom.

It is easy to update your username: just log in then click on the "profile icon," then click on the Profile Dashboard.

The screenshot shows the USGS user interface. A red arrow points to the profile icon in the left sidebar. Another red arrow points to the 'Profile Dashboard' button at the bottom of the main content area. The user's name 'ElizabethMc' and roles are displayed above the button.

Once you are there, find the little green "Edit" button on the right, and under your email address:



Then update your Username....otherwise known as a DISPLAY NAME:

The screenshot shows the 'Profile Dashboard' form with the 'Display Name' field updated to 'MappingMaster|'. The 'Twitter (optional)' field is still empty.

Name that App!

We've been calling the new editor, "new editor" or "TNMCorps Map Editor." But we could really use some help in coming up with a creative name! If you have any suggestions for a name for our online editor, please email your suggestions to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

Have a story or photo you'd like to share?

We want them! This could be anything from a photo of you verifying a structure or an interesting story that you discovered while editing. Photos, graphics, and stories may be used in future news releases and social media posts. All materials submitted become part of the "public domain," and can be used by USGS in the future unless otherwise specified.

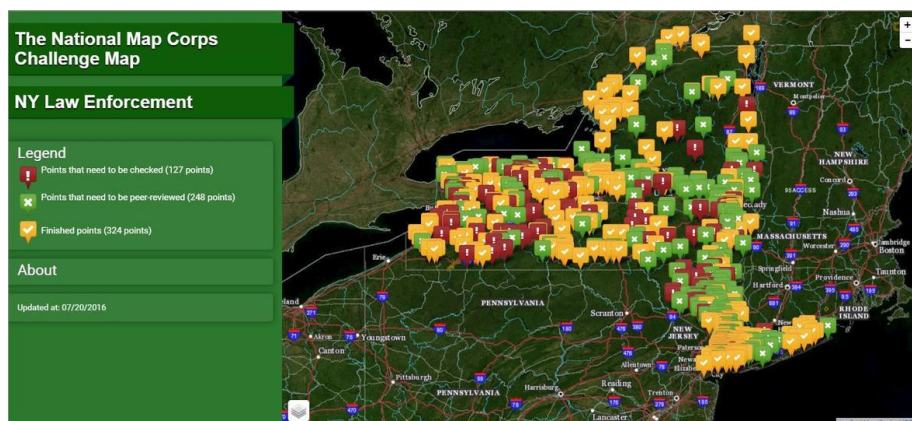
Please email them to nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov.

Map Challenge Updates

Before taking our old editor offline our volunteers did a ton of work finishing up two of our biggest challenges ever. We thanked those who finished up the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement in our [June Newsletter](#), and now we'd like to acknowledge those who participated in the New York Law Enforcement challenge. A big thanks to CourtneyRose, Cricket, HGeisler, Josie, Madmartigan, Olin, RagingSeas, armaggedonmap, bluelobster28, dgertzjr, geo163, hbrockus, kmac25, mikethompson30, rjerrard, stayfo, and superlemur for editing a big chunk of the points in the state.

To read more about these two most recent challenges, check out the [Science Snippet](#) on USGS.gov. <https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-map-corps-mapping-challenge>

Keep your eyes open for new challenges in the future and an updated Mapping Challenge page. Thank you for your patience as we complete our transition to the new editor.



CONTACT US AT: nationalmapcorps@usgs.gov for suggestions, questions, additions to the next newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from the email list.

Or call Elizabeth McCartney at 573-308-3696

